

President.—Do you expect an answer from *me*, Mr. Kunjunni Raja? The Government could not afford to wait for the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Am I to understand from that that the recommendations of the Committee are not taken very seriously?

President.—They are. They will be, when the recommendations come.

**Certain journeys performed by the Chief Engineer,
Conservator of Forests and the Chief Medical
and Sanitary Officer.**

5. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state the purposes, the destination and the dates of the various journeys outside the State, undertaken by the Chief Engineer, the Conservator of Forests and the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer and the amount of travelling allowances drawn on each occasion in the year 1101?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—A statement of the journeys outside the State undertaken by the Chief Engineer and the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer in 1101 is appended. (*Vide Appendix II*.) No such journeys were undertaken by the Conservator of Forests in 1101.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I find the Chief Engineer has travelled to Trivandrum and back on 26th Vrischigam 1101 to 29th Vrischigam 1101 and has drawn a travelling allowance of Rs. 20. The purpose of the journey is stated to be “under Command of His Highness the Maharaja”. It is not a purpose. He might have proceeded under Command of His Highness the Maharaja or under the orders of the Diwan. I want to know what was the purpose of the journey.

President.—When it is a journey performed under command of His Highness the Maharaja, the purpose is not enquired into.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Am I to understand that it is confidential?

President.—Not confidential. His Highness is at liberty to issue commands to an officer to perform any journey His Highness considers proper, and you have no right to question that.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then, with regard to the visit of Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese to the Leper Asylum at Chingleput. The opening of a Leper Asylum at Anappara was decided on long ago, and Government must have had suffi-

cient materials. What was the necessity to send him to Madras and back?

President.—Was the Chingleput Asylum in existence at the time that the Anappara Asylum was built?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunn Raja.—Long before that.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir. I may inform the Council that it is not a fact.

The period of appointment of the Diwan.

6. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform.—

(a) the period for which the present Diwan was first appointed;

(b) whether that period has since been extended, and if so, for how long;

(c) that, if his period has not been extended already, the Government has not yet started any correspondence for extending his period; and if the answer is in the affirmative, for how long it is proposed to be extended; and if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government will not pay its early attention to the consideration of extending his period?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The answer of the Government is the same as that given to question No. 468 in the Kumbham sitting of the Legislative Council.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is confidential. What is the reason for keeping it confidential? According to section 201 of the *Cochin Civil Service Regulation*, it is said that in every case extension should be given for not more than one year at a time, and your period was extended perhaps for one year; and we have to know, if the period has been extended further.

President. I say this matter is contained in a confidential document, and cannot be disclosed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We want to know, Sir, who is the President of the Council?

President.—The President of the Council is myself.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—But your period as Diwan has not been extended to our knowledge.

President.—But, of course, so long as he continues Diwan, he is the President.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—According to the section quoted, his period has to be extended, and extension should be given for not more than one year at a time.

President.—Those Standing Orders do not apply to the Diwan. They refer to other officers. But, after all, what is